

Appln. No. 09/841,883
Amendment sent May 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 21, 2006

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Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

1 18. (Currently Amended) ~~In a~~ A license issuing system in which a license-
2 issuing computer, a seller computer, and a purchaser computer are coupled to communicate with
3 each other, wherein:

4 the seller computer requests input of client information, product information and
5 license program information to the purchaser computer;

6 upon receiving the information, the purchaser computer transfers the client
7 information, the product information and the license program information to the seller computer;

8 the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program
9 information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer; and

10 the license-issuing computer issues a license key for the program specified by the
11 license program information upon authentication of the product information received from the
12 seller computer; and [.]

13 the seller computer receives said license key from the license-issuing computer
14 and transfers said license key to the purchaser computer based on the client information.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A license key issuing system, ~~for use by three~~
2 ~~computers coupled via a network, the system comprising:~~

3 a purchaser computer for receiving client information, product information and
4 license program information;

5 a seller computer connected with the purchaser computer to receive the client
6 information, the product information, and the license program information from the purchaser
7 computer, and in response provide the product information and the license program information,
8 but not the client information, ~~to the license-issuing computer~~, together with a request for a
9 license key;

10 the a license-issuing computer connected with the seller computer and operable to
11 receive the product information, the license program information, and the request for a license
12 key from the seller computer, issuing and in response issue a license key to the seller computer ~~if~~
13 ~~response to a request~~ upon authentication of the product information;

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14 wherein the seller computer then transmitting is further operable to receive the
15 license key and transmit the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2 issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3 [[a]] program code which allows the license-issuing computer to extract product
4 information and license program information from a license request, product information,
5 wherein any client information has been removed by a seller computer sending the license
6 request, and which does not allow the license-issuing computer to store client information,
7 wherein the license program information and the client information are provided by an individual
8 to [[a]] the seller computer; and

9 [[a]] program code which authenticates the product information and issues a
10 license key to the seller computer to send to the individual for a program specified by the license
11 program information.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2 issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3 [[a]] program code which allows the license-issuing computer to receive a product
4 number, a license program name, and a trial license key, but not client information, from a seller
5 computer for a purchaser who enters that information sends the product number, the license
6 program name, the trial license key, and the client information to the into a seller computer; and

7 [[a]] program code which authenticates the product number, and in response
8 issues a trial license key to the seller computer to send to the purchaser to allow use of a program
9 specified by the license program name for a given time.

1 22. (Previously Presented) A license-issuing computer as in claim 21
2 characterized in that the license-issuing computer issues a license for a program stored in a data
3 storage system.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2 issuing license keys, the license-issuing computer including:

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3 [[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer receives to
4 receive a product number, a license program name, but not client information, from a seller
5 computer for a purchaser;

6 [[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer to perform
7 performs authentication of the product number and issues to issue a trial license key to the seller
8 computer to send to the purchaser to allow limited use of the license program by the purchaser;
9 and

10 [[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer to
11 authenticate authenticates the trial license key when the license-issuing computer receives the
12 license program name and the trial license key from the seller computer, and which issues a paid
13 license key, for an authenticated trial license key, to the seller computer to send to the purchaser

1 24. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a
2 license key [[to]] by a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser
3 computer through a network, the seller computer including:

4 [[a]] program code which requests client information, product information, and
5 license program information from the purchaser computer;

6 [[a]] program code which receives the client information, the product information,
7 and the license program information from the purchaser computer, and which transmits only the
8 product information and the license program information to the license-issuing computer; and

9 [[a]] program code which receives the license key from the license-issuing
10 computer and transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 25. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a
2 license key [[to]] by a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser
3 computer, the seller computer including :

4 a program which requests input of client information, product information, and
5 license program information to the purchaser computer through the network;

6 [[a]] program code which receives [[the]] client information, [[the]] product
7 information, and [[the]] license program information from the purchaser computer and transmits

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8 only the product information and the license program information to the license-issuing
9 computer; and

10 [[a]] program code which receives the license key from the license-issuing
11 computer and transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 26. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests a trial license key to
2 allow use of a computer program for a trial period, and a special license key which extends the
3 trial period in response to a request from a purchaser computer through a network, the seller
4 computer including:

5 means for receiving input of a product number, a license program name, and a
6 trial license key from a purchaser;

7 means for providing a license key received from a license-issuing computer;
8 ~~a program which requests~~ means for requesting input of client information, the
9 product number, and the license program name [[to]] from the purchaser computer;

10 ~~a program which receives~~ means for receiving the client information, the product
11 information, and the license program information from the purchaser computer and ~~transmits~~
12 transmitting only one of (1) the product information and the license program information to the
13 license-issuing computer or (2) the product number, the license program name, and the trial
14 license key to the license-issuing computer; and

15 ~~a program which receives~~ means for receiving the trial license key from the
16 license-issuing computer and ~~transmits~~ transmitting the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 27. (Previously Presented) A method for a seller computer to request a license
2 key from a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser computer through
3 a network, the method comprising:

4 a step in which the seller computer receives client information, a product number
5 and a license program name from a purchaser computer;

6 a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number and the license
7 program name, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer;

8 a step in which the seller computer receives a trial license key to allow use of the
9 program for a given period;

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10 a step in which the seller computer transmits the trial license key to the purchaser
11 computer;

12 a step in which the seller computer inputs the client information, the product
13 number, the license program name and the trial license key communicated from a purchaser
14 therein,

15 a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number, the license
16 program name and the trial license key to the license-issuing computer,

17 a step in which the seller computer receives a special license key for extending a
18 trial period by the trial license key from the license-issuing computer, and

19 a step in which the seller computer transmits the special license key to the
20 purchaser.

1 28. (Currently Amended) A licensing issuing method of a license issuing system
2 comprising a license-issuing computer, a seller computer, a purchaser computer, and a network
3 which connects the license-issuing computer, the seller computer and the purchaser computer,
4 wherein:

5 the license-issuing computer requests input of client information, product
6 information, and license program information [[to]] from the purchaser computer to send to the
7 seller computer;

8 the purchaser computer transfers the client information, the product information,
9 and the license program information to the seller computer in response to the request from the
10 license-issuing computer;

11 the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program
12 information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer; and

13 the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program specified by the
14 license program information, upon authentication of the product information, to the seller
15 computer to send to the purchaser computer.

1 29. (Currently Amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer
2 which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,
3 the license issuing method including:

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- 4 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives product information, license:
5 program information, but not client information, from data input by a purchaser and sent to a
6 seller computer;
7 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product
8 information; and
9 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program
10 specified by the license program information to the seller computer when the authentication is
11 normally finished to be sent to the purchaser.

1 30. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein the license-issuing
2 computer issues a license key for a program specified by a license program name.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer
2 which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,
3 the license issuing method including:

4 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a product number [,] and a
5 license program name, but not client information, the product number, the client information,
6 and the license program name provided by the purchaser to a seller computer;

7 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product number;

8 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key to the seller
9 to be sent to the purchaser to allow use of a program specified by the license program name for a
10 given period;

11 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives the product number, the
12 license program name, and the trial license key, the product number, the license program name
13 and the trial license key;

14 a step in which the license-issuing computer performs authentication of the trial
15 license key; and

16 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a special license key to the
17 seller computer to send to the purchaser which extends a trial period.

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- 1 32. (Previously Presented) A license issuing method characterized in that the
- 2 license issuing method according to claim 31 issues the license for a program installed in a data
- 3 storage system.